GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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A LIFE-SAVING ST. BERNARD AND HIS MASTER AT THE HISTORIC STEPS OF THE ST. BERNARD MONASTERY, SWITZERLAND. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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St. Bernard's on a Famous Alpine Pass

THE HOSPICE of St. Bernard celebrated its thousandth anniversary a few months ago on the assumption that the earliest date, 923, ascribed to its foundation by Bernard de Menthon, is the correct one.

The Pass of the Great St. Bernard across the Alps between what are now Switzerland and Italy, is the highest point in Europe that is inhabited the year round. It is a bleak, cheerless region of gray rocks in summer and a dazzlingly white desert of snow in winter.

Has Climate of the Arctic

In this spot only 8500 feet above the sea and so close to sunny Italy, the handful of devoted monks who maintain the hospice live in a climate like that of ice-bound Spitsbergen. The mean annual temperature is 30° Fahrenheit. The mercury does not rise above 48° in summer, and in winter it sometimes falls as low as 40° below zero. The little lake beside which the convent buildings rise frequently remains frozen all summer long.

The Pass was one of the earliest known routes across the Alps and remained one of the most important until recently, when a railroad, following a near-by route and taking an unfair advantage by utilizing such modern devices as tunnels, left it more or less off the beaten path. Rome used the Pass for centuries in flinging its power north of the Alps and in maintaining its rule over its Gallic and Teutonic provinces. The first highway is said to have been constructed through the Pass by the Romans in 47 A. D. In the middle ages Charlemagne, Frederick Barbarossa, and numerous other rulers and noted generals led their forces through. In later times the Pass played a part of major strategic value when Napoleon led an army over it in 1800 to the field of Marengo.

Pilgrim Route in Middle Ages

After Rome's secular decline and her rise to spiritual importance with the spread of Christianity, the Pass became frequented by pilgrims passing from northern and central Europe and even England to the shrines and pilgrimage places of Italy. Bandits infested the Pass and its neighborhood and preyed upon the pilgrims. Hundreds of pilgrims, too, caught in storms, died from exposure. Bernard de Menthon, a monk then living in Aosta, Italy, near the southern end of the pass, was stirred by the plight of the pilgrims and founded the hospice at the crest of the Pass to provide shelter and protection. This was in 923, according to some writers, and in the following century, according to others. Another version of the story says that a hospice was established on the same spot in 859 but was destroyed, and some centuries later was reestablished by Bernard de Menthon.

The buildings of the hospice make no pretensions architecturally. They are great barn-like structures, but in their bleak surroundings they are hailed by weary travelers as enthusiastically as though they were things of beauty. Inside they are comfortable, and they have been the means of saving many lives.

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A BRUSH WEIR ON THE COAST OF MAINE FOR CATCHING HERRING.

The herring brush weirs of the northeast coast are very substantially built and some are of large capacity and of considerable value. The stout stakes or posts are driven into the bottom at close intervals, or, in case the bottom is rocky, are attached to large stones, and this framework is strengthened by heavy horizontal stringers. The portion below low-water line is closely woven with branches of trees running horizontally, these being pushed to the bottom by means of a forked stick. The upper part of the weir is of loosely woven brush extending vertically two or three feet above high water. (See Bulletin No. 2.)

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Herring: Most Important Food Fish

IF NEWSPAPERS maintained "fish news" reporters these men would keep the herring well "covered" for the herring continually is furnishing big "stories" (which is newspaper parlance for fact, not fiction). Dispatches recently told how fiords in northern Norway have been blocked into a semisolid state by herring shoals.

John Oliver La Gorce, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, writes:

"Huxley has called mankind an association of herring catchers, and if those fish be counted that are caught by fish which feed on them and in turn feed us, he probably has not missed the mark much.

Herring Schools Number Billions

"He also reminds us that single schools covering half a dozen square miles may contain more than three billion herring; yet many schools have been recorded that covered an area of 20 square miles.

"The herring family includes not only the herrings, but also the sardines, the alewives, the shads, and the menhadens.

"Distributed throughout the entire North Atlantic Ocean, the herring, *Clupea harengus*, is probably the most important food fish in the world.

"With so many other species in competition, the herring has never attained the popularity on the American dinner table that it has on those of Europe, where it forms a staple diet for millions; but even in our waters it is widely taken north of Cape Cod. Most of the fish are sold fresh, either for human food or cod bait. Immense quantities of the young ones are packed and sold as sardines.

Ten Billion Caught Every Year

"Years ago Professor Huxley estimated that three billion herring were being caught annually. With the growth of the fishing industry in European waters, it has been estimated that the annual catch now exceeds ten billion. A single shoal sometimes covers ten square miles and is estimated to contain at least half as many herring as the whole world catches in a year. Many such shoals are known to exist.

"The herring, unlike most fishes, is particularly fine-flavored at spawning time, and the fisheries are carried on busily during that season. Usually the herring is taken with gill nets anchored below the surface of the waters, in which so many are sometimes enmeshed as to sink the buoys. Other forms of taking it are by means of weirs and torching. The latter is particularly resorted to when cold weather sets in. A torch is set in the bow of the boat. The fish rise to the surface as the vessel glides swiftly along, and are scooped in without difficulty.

Have Many Enemies Besides Man

"The food of the herring consists principally of 'red feed,' a minute surface-swimming crustacean, and shrimp. They are in turn preyed on by a list of

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Its Life-Saving St. Bernard Dogs

One gift of the Hospice of St. Bernard to the world which may be lost sight of beside the greater gift of brotherly helpfulness is its breed of great shaggy dogs that deserve to be ranked the Abou ben Adhems of dogdom. The splendid creatures attached to the hospice patrol the neighboring sections of the Pass after winter storms, carrying wine and bread in containers about their necks. They have rescued many from perishing. The most famous of all, "Barry," saved 40 persons but was shot by the 41st who thought he was being attacked. The breed is supposed to have originated from the crossing of the Pyrenean sheep dog with another strain.

Monks and dogs alike give their lives to their work of rescue. In the rigorous climate of their bleak hospice even those who escape avalanches and storms have their lives shortened. Only young monks are found at the hospice. All too soon they must retire, usually in ill health, to live their remaining years in the lowland.

Bulletin No. 1, February 4, 1924.

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AN EXAMINATION HALL ON THE NILE

Amid ancient columns dating back to the Ptolemies, in a fourteenth century mosque built by Amir Altun Bogha el-Mardani, the modern theological student takes his examination in the doctrines of the Koran. Less famous than el-Azhar, which is Egypt's largest university, el-Mardani is a prominent factor in theological education in the capital. (See Bulletin No. 5.)

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St. Andrews: Capital of Learning and Golf

WILL ST. ANDREWS, bleak old Scotch sea town, first in learning and golf, also take first place in the hearts of lovers of English literature and the staunch Anglo-Saxon code?

This speculation arises from the new custom of St. Andrews, oldest college in Scotland, of electing an honorary rector for a year.

Last year, in his rectorial capacity, Barrie made his now famous address on "Courage"; this year Rudyard Kipling talked to the students on "Independence." The custom is much as if Abraham Lincoln had been elected to an honorary professorship at Harvard and on that occasion gave the "Gettysburg Address" and had been succeeded the following year by Ralph Waldo Emerson speaking on "Compensation."

Thousands of Cities Copy St. Andrews

All unconsciously, every fair-sized city in the United States has copied a part of St. Andrews on American soil—the golf links. All the jibes and all the praise of golf must at last fall on the heads of this village's early residents, because St. Andrews is the capital of golf. And since these St. Andrews' golfers happened to play over a bumpy pasture, bumpy pastures have been built for golf enthusiasts in the arid wastes of Montana, amid coconut groves of the south seas, on Florida's keys and the Himalaya Mountains. Because a branch of the Eden happened to flow across this Scotch grazing ground, no golf course is complete without a water hazard.

The town of St. Andrews is peculiar. It is one of the few cities in the world lacking a geographical reason for existence. It has no important railroad junction, no coal field, no river. Situated on the bleak headland between the Firth of Forth where Edinburgh looks down and the firth which shelters Dundee, St. Andrews possesses a poor harbor, noted chiefly as a trap for ships. Yet the history of "Gofftoon," as the town is called by golfers, goes back so far it is lost in antiquity.

Legend has it that Regulus, an Irish monk, brought the bones of St. Andrew to this missionary outpost some time between 500 and 700. The Saint's bones must have rested uneasily because St. Andrews has been the religious whirlpool of Scotland ever since. Its bishops hanged and were hanged. John Knox used the city as a base of operations for the reformists. Patrick Hamilton, a martyr, was burned before the cathedral. While Mary, Queen of Scots, sought refuge there, enemies planned her assassination. In the Cromwell revolution another bitter storm centered on the town and even today it has not entirely recovered.

Game and University Boon to City

But throughout the story of strife runs the thread of golf. Golf and the university appear in the same century, the fifteenth. Wars may rage and men kill each other for the glory of God, but the links on the shore of the "German

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enemies as long as the moral law, ranging from finback whales, porpoises, and seals to cod, dogfish, and squids.

"When schools of enemy fish attack the herring the sea gulls are always on the job to gather up the scraps of the fray.

"The life history of the herring has never been completely worked out. The facts known indicate that it lives in deep water off the coasts, coming in shore to spawn. There seems to be a number of distinct races, differing as to size, spawning time, and various other qualities and traits, each race swimming in a separate school and having its own particular time and ground for spawning. The number of eggs laid by a female ranges from 10,000 to 50,000, it is said."

Bulletin No. 2, February 4, 1924.

Notice to Teachers

IN CONNECTION with Bulletin No. 2, "Herring, Most Important Food Fish," teachers will find useful, for reading and reference assignments, the following bibliography of material on all phases of the herring industry in the National Geographic Magazine. Files of the National Geographic Magazine are to be found in progressive school libraries and in all public libraries.

In subsequent issues of the Weekly Geographic News Bulletins material on other industries and products of the land and sea will be keyed in connection with bulletins on such subjects. Typical industries or products will be indexed in this manner, such as wheat, cotton, glass making, cement making, silk weaving.

Further references to articles dealing with these subjects will be found in the Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine 1899-1922.

HERRING

Description and Life of Herring

Herring (Clupea Narengus). Vol. 44, pp. 629. Color Plate. Vol. 44, No. IX.
Perils of. Vol. 20, pp. 575-578.
Description. Vol. 20, pp. 701.
Fecundity. Vol. 20, pp. 703.
Eggs laid in year. Vol. 34, pp. 239.
The Silvery Sardine. Vol. 20, pp. 555.

Uses

For American Sardines. Vol. 20, pp. 708.
Bait for Lobsters. Vol. 44, pp. 581.
Fertilizer and Oil. Vol. 44, pp. 96.
Uses of. Vol. 20, pp. 703.

Where Fished For

Fisheries of British Columbia. Vol. 20, pp. 712.
Canada. Vol. 20, pp. 711.
France. Vol. 20, pp. 719.
Japan. Vol. 20, pp. 730.
Newfoundland. Vol. 20, pp. 712.
Norway. Vol. 20, pp. 725.
Pacific Coast. Vol. 20, pp. 709.
Scotland. Vol. 20, pp. 715.
Sweden. Vol. 20, pp. 726.
Brittany. Vol. 20, pp. 554, 558, 559.
Spain. Vol. 41, pp. 81.

Supply of

Comparison with the fish foods. Vol. 44, pp. 593.
Problem of Supply. Vol. 20, pp. 732.
Ten billion caught annually. Vol. 20, pp. 732.
In U. S. Waters. Vol. 20, pp. 704.
Lake Superior. Vol. 40, pp. 159-160.

How Fished for

Herring fleets, illus. Vol. 20, pp. 717, 733, 734.
Methods of catching. Vol. 20, pp. 704.
Methods of catching (Brittany). Vol. 20, pp. 556-7.

Marketing

Auction, Grimsby, England. Vol. 27, 147. Illus.
Sardine women, Spain. Vol. 41, pp. 81.

Importance to History

Caused troubles for Charles I. Vol. 20, pp. 712.
Value to nations. Vol. 20, pp. 702.
Caused trouble with Great Britain over Newfoundland. Vol. 20, pp. 709.
Laid foundations of Amsterdam. Vol. 20, pp. 720.

Special Articles

"Brittany, Land of the Sardine," Hugh M. Smith. Vol. 20, pp. 541-573, 23 illus., June, 1909.
"King Herring, World's Most Valuable Fish," Hugh M. Smith. Vol. 20, pp. 701-735, 21 illus., Aug. 1909.
"Life on the Grand Banks," Frederick William Wallace. Vol. 40, pp. 1-28, 29 illus., July, 1921.

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Excavations at Kish, Adam of Cities

THE FINDING of tablets and other relics on the site of Kish, near the banks of the Euphrates, has in it the possibilities of pushing back the history of man's governments so that we may peer farther into the past than ever before.

Babylon, the mighty and wonderful, with all its glamor as the first great world-city about which we know, fills our eyes when we look back toward the beginning of history. Though it began its rise to power more than 4,000 years ago, Babylon, it is believed, was young beside Kish.

Kish 1,000 Years Babylon's Senior

Babylon first became important about 2200 B. C. For more than 1,000 years before that date, however, Kish existed near the site of the future metropolis, according to records dug up from the remains of other Mesopotamian cities. From time to time during that period Kish was the most important city of the land, holding its fellows under its suzerainty. Even when power passed to Babylon, Kish, eight miles away, was preserved and honored under the wing of the new state, and one of the early members of the Babylonian dynasty resided there and made it his capital.

The first people whom history uncovered in Mesopotamia were the Sumerians, who built cities near the mouth of the Tigris-Euphrates. Only a short time after these earliest known Mesopotamian city-dwellers emerge, their records bring Kish into the picture; and that city is brought in in a way which establishes two important facts: that the people of Kish held the ascendency over the Sumerians; and that already a considerable period of civilization had passed. For the record relates that the King of Kish was called in as the world's first known umpire—an arbitrator to settle a boundary dispute between two Sumerian cities. After giving his decision he caused stones to be inscribed and placed, and so drew the first international boundary line ever recorded.

Traditions Like Those of Bible

Thus Kish stands almost at the threshold of written history. Practically all that is now known of the Kishites is known from objects found elsewhere. The investigation of the remains of the city itself should greatly enrich our knowledge of its life and times.

One of the possibilities in excavating Kish is the finding of information that will throw more light on the fascinating question of the historic origin of Hebrew religious beliefs. Already the parallelism is so close between many Babylonian-Sumerian and Jewish traditions that it is almost certain that they had a common source. The religious chronicles of the ancient Mesopotamians tell that the earth was created from a watery chaos, and that man was made from earth mixed with God's blood. It ascribes the "fall of man" to the eating of a fruit; and it has a complete deluge story according to which one family survived by building an ark smeared with bitumen. The Sumerian "Noah" landed on a mountain and sent out a dove in an effort to find whether the waters had subsided. The Babylonian-Sumerian religion, however, had many gods.

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ocean" are held sacred to the game. Three months before the Pilgrim fathers left Delftshaven, James VI approved the contract for the first municipal golf links at St. Andrews. Later these links were acquired by the Ancient and Royal Golf Club of St. Andrews which, to this day, acts as the Justinian of golf law for the world.

Golf may have started in Holland where a game called "kolf," apparently a cross between golf, hockey and bowling, was played, but is now extinct. It was played on the ice, within covered courts and even in churchyards. But if the Scotch did import the sport they changed it greatly. The location and peculiarity of terrain at St. Andrews is found in golf terminology just as the topography is reproduced on every continent. "Links," for example, is the Scotch term referring to rolling, close-cropped shore fields which have become the model for all golf courses. "Bunkers" are really cut banks such as are found along a graded country road. Such banks with sand pits are natural to this shore. St. Andrews' cut banks are now artificially created on golf links wherever golf is played. For a good many years the Royal and Ancient course consisted of eleven holes, a match being two rounds or twenty-two holes, but in 1764 the club decided to eliminate two, so today the standard course is in multiples of nine.

Parliament Tried to Suppress Game

The first reference to golf in Scotland is an ordinance of the Scottish parliament, "That the fute-ball and golf be utterly cryit down and nocht usit; and that bowe-merkis be maid at ilk paroche kirk a pair of buttis, and shuttin be usit ilk Sunday." It is evidence that the Scots, young as well as old, were neglecting national guard drill for the links and the scrimmage line. The stormy issue of Sunday golf was settled in Scotland back in 1593. The year previous the Edinburgh council had issued a proclamation that "seeing the Sabboth day being the Lordis day . . . na inhabitants be seen at ony pastymes within or without the toon, sic as golfe, etc." But this was too much for the Scots and in 1593 the ordinance was modified with the prohibition only "in tyme of sermons."

James IV also issued a stern decree forbidding "golfe and fute-ball" in 1491 and then went out and played himself. Mary Stuart is believed to be the first woman golfer on record, having shocked all Scotland by playing the game within a few days after her husband's murder. When women were first admitted to the Ancient and Royal they were limited to a putting course.

In 1863 St. Andrews hired Tom Morris, a young Scotchman, to keep up the course. Little did they think that this fellow would spread a larger ripple on history than any member of their organization. Morris developed a strong pride in the links and groomed them diligently. Then as golf grew more popular Tom Morris was engaged to lay out new courses in England and Scotland. So well did he do his work that many a club is proud to say that their course was laid out by Tom Morris. Naturally he imitated conditions found on his native heath and golf courses everywhere have been made on the general Morris plan.

Inquiry reveals few changes in the general style of golf clubs in 500 years of golf history. Golf balls of today, however, are very different from the balls used when Dr. Forrest, professor of civil engineering of St. Andrews, won the prized silver club in 1772 with a score of 106. Some early balls were wood, but generally they had a leather cover over a wound wool center. The first gutta percha balls were black or red. Over 100 is a "duffer" score on the links of today. Under 100 was a phenomenal score for the old Scotch cracks. Not until after 1850 do the tournament championship scores (St. Andrews also inaugurated the golf tournament) regularly run below this figure. Even now the Ancient and Royal club course is not considered easy.

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Extend Rail Line to Heart of Africa

A REMOTE but exceptionally important bit of railroad building is the proposed extension of the Kenya Colony line into Uganda, which will link Mombasa with the Nile.

Pushing the line 75 miles beyond its present terminus at Turbo will open to coastal travelers one of the most diverse regions of the world, from a geographic and scenic standpoint.

The existing railroad gives ample promise of what lies beyond. When he entered Africa for his famous lion-hunt the late Theodore Roosevelt rode over this stretch on a locomotive cowcatcher and when he gave his first lecture before the National Geographic Society after his return he said, "I really doubt if there is a railroad trip in the world as well worth taking as that up to the little British East African capital of Nairobi."

Two Natural Wonders at Proposed Terminus

From the terminus of the contemplated extension, at Jinja, the passenger some day will emerge to view two of the world's notable natural features—Victoria Nyanza, to the south, and in the northern background the giant Mount Elgon, with its crater ten miles across and its jagged rim rising to 14,000 feet.

Jinja is located on the marvelously beautiful gulf through which the waters pour from the mighty lake over Ripon Falls and enter upon the cascaded and swirling course of the Victoria Nile.

These are only two of Uganda's physical aspects which range from snow-capped mountains, some veiled in heavy mists, to arid areas where rain has not fallen for periods of two years.

In the Rift Valley is a curious people who are guiltless of clothes, but extremely painstaking of their hair. It is most unwomanly for a Suk woman to have any hair on her head. The men, however, let their hair grow and upon a father's death his hair is divided among his sons. Each son weaves his into a sort of receptacle in which he places his snuff box, ornaments and other valuable trinkets.

Stone Age Men in Modern Africa

Sir Harry Johnston tells of another tribe, the Andorobo, who wander among dense forests and game-haunted wildernesses. He says: "These Andorobo reproduce in a most striking manner the life which we may suppose to have been led by our far-away ancestors in the earliest Stone Ages. They lead, in fact, very much the life that the most primitive types of man led in Great Britain and France in the far-back days of big animals, possibly before the coming of the glacial periods.

"They live entirely by the chase, often consuming the flesh of birds and beasts uncooked. Though they commit considerable devastation among the game of the province, they are a picturesque feature when encountered."

Joseph Thomson, founder of British East Africa, which now is Kenya, is

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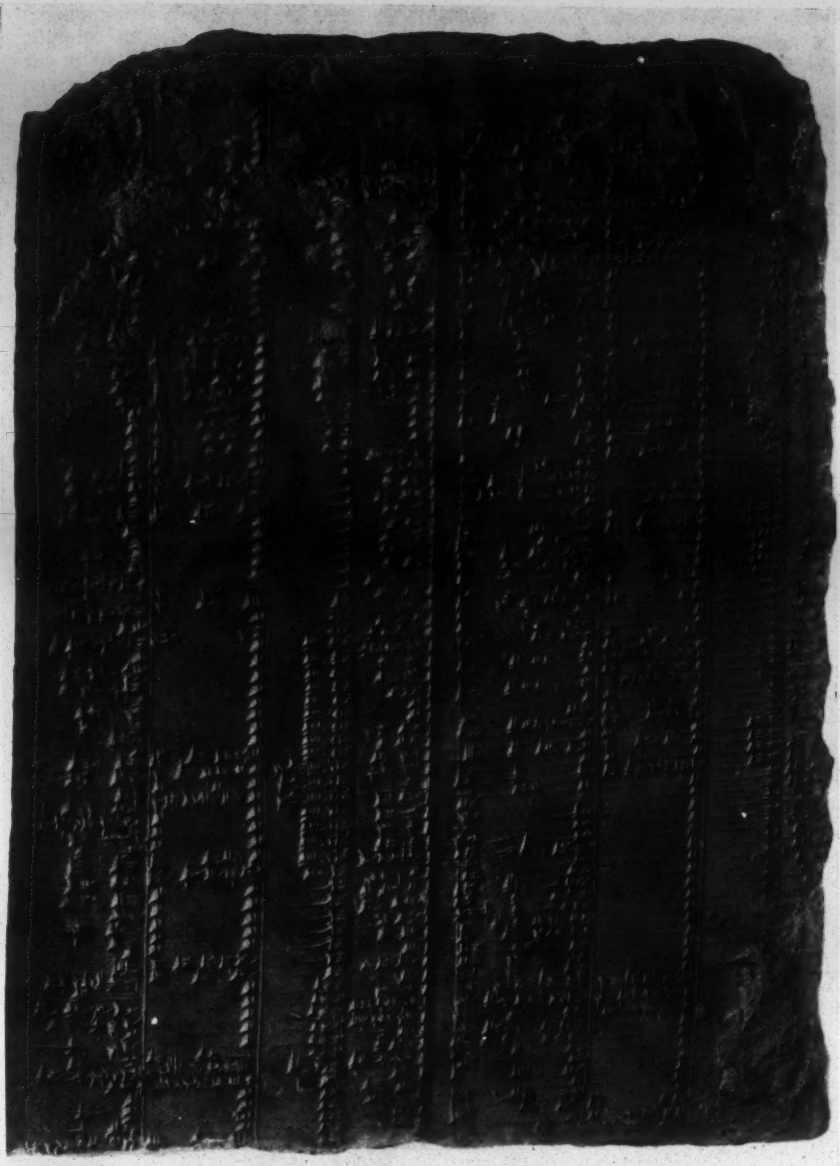

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A 5,000 YEAR-OLD DICTIONARY, IN TWO SECTIONS OF FOUR COLUMNS EACH

The first contains the Sumerian; the second, the character to be explained; the third, the name of the character, and the fourth, the Babylonian, equivalent to the Sumerian in the first. The reader will probably infer that the school boy or girl of 5,000 years ago had a much harder time of it than today. The Sumerians were a wonderful people, who were already civilized when present history begins, 6,000 years ago. (See Bulletin No. [illegible])

famous for never having fired at a native. He first penetrated Masai-land where the reality approaches Kipling's fantastic lines:

"This is the sorrowful story,
Told when the twilight fails,
And the monkeys walk together,
Holding each other's tails."

Sir Harry Johnston's Maisai-land picture follows:

A Picture Out of a Fairy Book

"Their towns are surrounded by belts of tall trees, mainly acacias, some of which must be considerably over a hundred feet in height, with green boughs and trunks and ever-present flaky films of pinnated foliage. In the rainy time of the year these trees are loaded with tiny golden balls of flowers, like tassels of floss silk, which exhale a most delicious perfume of honey. In the plains between the villages Grevy's zebra and a few oryx antelopes scamper about, while golden and black jackals hunt for small prey in broad daylight, with a constant whimpering.

"Enormous baboons sit in the branches of the huge trees ready to rifle the native crops at the least lack of vigilance on the part of the boy guardians. Large herds of cattle and troops of isabella colored donkeys, with broad black shoulder-stripes, go out in the morning to graze, and return through a faint cloud of dust, which is turned golden by the setting sun in the mellow evening, the cattle lowing and occasionally fighting, the asses kicking, plunging, and biting one another."

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SHOOTING OUT OF A SAND TRAP

There is consolation for those who bewail the expense of golf in the economy of the early Scotch devotees. Today golf means expensive equipment, scrupulously kept courses, costly clubhouses and, in private clubs, high dues. Even as late as 1838 the annual dues for the Ancient and Royal Golf Club were only one pound, a little less than five dollars. In 1856 a fine new clubhouse was contracted for at the modest estimate of $9,[illegible] Golf balls, however, were relatively high, the Marquis of Montrose having paid 10 shillings for two in [illegible]. (See Bulletin No. 3.)